

a single piece frame, said frame having a top side and a bottom side;

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storage compartments within said frame that are each configured and dimensioned to receive a sample tube containing a chemical or biological sample, said storage compartments being adjacent to each other and defined by separation walls between them, each of said storage compartments having an inner wall and being open at the top side of the frame and open at the bottom side of the frame so that a sample tube is insertable into the storage compartment from either the top side of the frame or the bottom side of the frame and is removable from the storage compartment from either the top side of the frame or the bottom side of the frame with one and the same orientation of the sample tube with respect to the frame, and

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means for retaining a sample tube within each of said storage compartments, said retaining means being an integral part of said frame, said retaining means being a part of the inner wall of each storage compartment, that part of said inner wall being configured and dimensioned to cooperate with a part of the outer wall of a sample tube for retaining the sample tube at a predetermined position within said compartment. ✓

53217 F 2. (Amended) A rack according to claim 1, wherein each of said compartments is configured and dimensioned for holding an entire sample tube. ✓

REMARKS

Reconsideration is requested in view of the above amendments and following remarks. Claims 1-5 were pending in the subject application and applicants have amended claims 1 and 2.